THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Declaration of new National Highways would be considered only after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise at present.

(c) and (d) In the 8th Five Year Plan, the State Government of Kerala has requested for the inclusion of four State Roads in the National Highway grid. Action on these proposals is possible only after finalisation of the 8th Plan.

Glut in Rubber Market in Cochin

409. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of a glut in the Rubber market in Cochin due to change in the credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no glut in the Rubber market in Cochin. As on 5th July, 1991, the prices were ruling at Rs. 2,115 for RMA-4 grade and Rs. 1,980 for lot rubber per quintal. There is no price fall as compared to the price that prevailed before the announcement of change in the credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India.

Acquisition of Ballistic Missiles by Pakistan

410. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of an unspecified number of M-11 Chinese ballistic missiles by Pakistan recently has posed threat to India's security;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet any kind of challenge from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government closely monitor all developments impingiug on national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness

Assistance of Private Sector in Public Transport System

411. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the private sector